In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please insert the following on page 1, before the first paragraph:

Sequence Listing

The instant application contains a Sequence Listing which has been submitted via EFS-Web and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said ASCII copy, created on February 18, 2010, is named MSQ0405.txt, and is 850 bytes in size.

Please delete the paragraph on page 30, lines 22-33 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Where the DNA sequence of the lyase (eg. alginase) gene has been determined, direct cloning may be employed by PCR using a primer designed upstream of the sequence and a complementary reverse primer downstream. For the *A. chroococcum* algL gene, the DNA sequence is publically available on Genbank under Accession No. AJ223605, and a pair of suitable primers includes GGACTGAACTTCTTCGCC **(SEQ ID NO: 1)** (forward primer) and GCTGCTGCTGGATCGGC **(SEQ ID NO: 2)** (reverse primer). The primers may further comprise restriction sites at their 5' ends to facilitate cloning. These primers are suitable for PCR amplification of the complete lyase (eg. algL gene from *A. chroococcum*) using a proof-reading DNA polymerase to ensure the cloning of a active gene product. A conventional alginase assay is then employed to confirm the presence of alginase activity.